Patent claims

1. A bank note processing machine having the following elements:
    sensors (5), a transport system (6), an input/output device (7), and
    a control device (3) with an associated memory (4, 4a) which controls the ele-
    ments of the bank note processing machine by means of software and/or data
    stored in the memory (4, 4a),
    characterized in that the bank note processing machine has an interface (1)
    which makes it possible to couple memory systems (2) of different kinds to the
    bank note processing machine in order to alter, supplement or replace the soft-
    ware and/or data stored in the memory (4, 4a).

2. A bank note processing machine according to claim 1, characterized in that the
    interface (1) is a standardized interface, in particular according to PCMCIA.

3. A bank note processing machine according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in
    that the memory system (2) has a drive (2b) and a storage medium (2a) which
    are suitable in particular for optical and/or magnetic recording.

4. A bank note processing machine according to any of claims 1 to 3, character-
    ized in that the memory (4, 4a) has a nonvolatile area (4), and after coupling of
    the memory system (2) to the interface (1) the software and/or data stored in
    the memory system (2) are stored in the nonvolatile area (4).

5. A bank note processing machine according to any of claims 1 to 3, character-
    ized in that the memory (4, 4a) has a volatile area (4a), and after coupling of
    the memory system (2) to the interface (1) the software and/or data stored in
    the memory system (2) are stored in the volatile area (4a).

6. A bank note processing machine according to any of claims 1 to 5, character-
    ized in that data obtained in the bank note processing machine during operation
    are stored in the memory system (2).

7. A bank note processing machine according to any of claims 1 to 6, character-
    ized in that the software and/or data stored in the memory system (2) are stored
    in encoded form, and the controller (3) is set up to decode the encoded soft-
    ware and/or data.

8. A method for operating a bank note processing machine whose elements and functions are controlled by means of data and/or software stored in the bank note processing machine, characterized in that the data and software can be altered, supplemented or replaced via a universal data link which allows the connection of a plurality of different memory systems.

9. A method for operating a bank note processing machine according to claim 8, characterized in that the data and/or software of the memory system are lastingly stored in the bank note processing machine upon connection of a memory system.

10. A method for operating a bank note processing machine according to claim 8, characterized in that the data and/or software of the memory system are used for controlling the bank note processing machine for the duration of connection of a memory system.

11. A method for operating a bank note processing machine according to claim 10, characterized in that the data and/or software of the memory system control a test mode for the bank note processing machine.

12. A method for operating a bank note processing machine according to any of claims 8 to 10, characterized in that the data and/or software of the memory system control a user-specific mode for the bank note processing machine.

13. A method for operating a bank note processing machine according to any of claims 8 to 12, characterized in that data obtained in the bank note processing machine during operation are stored in the memory system.

14. A method for operating a bank note processing machine according to any of claims 8 to 13, characterized in that the software and/or data stored in the memory system are stored in encoded form, and the controller (3) decodes the encoded software and/or data.